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# News Release

## **Financial Preparedness Important for Floridians** *Hurricane season begins June 1*

**ORLANDO, Fla.** – When disaster strikes, having access to personal financial, insurance, medical and other records is crucial for starting the process of recovery.

- Download FEMA’s Emergency Financial First Aid Kit at [go.usa.gov/xQWVJ](http://go.usa.gov/xQWVJ). It has tips to help reduce the financial impact of disasters. It also contains a checklist of all documents that may be needed after a disaster.
- Keep some cash at home in a safe place. Have small bills on hand because ATMs and credit cards may not work during a disaster.
- Obtain property—homeowners or renters—insurance. It will ensure having financial resources to repair, rebuild or replace damaged property.
- All Floridians should buy flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program as homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding. Learn more online at [fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program).
- Arrange to get benefits electronically as mail service may be disrupted for weeks. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks.
- Purchase a portable charger to keep cell phones and other devices charged when the power goes out to continue to pay monthly bills online.

Prepare ahead by collecting all important records and storing them in a safe place, either in a safety deposit box, on an external drive or the cloud. In the event of an emergency it will prove invaluable to know where to find all vital documents.

### **Personal Documents**

- Photo ID for all household members
- Birth certificates
- Social Security cards
- Proof of military service
- Pet ID tags

## **Financial and Legal Documents**

- Housing payments
- Insurance policies
- Sources of income
- Tax statements

## **Medical Information**

- Physician information
- Health insurance cards
- Immunization records
- Medications

For more recovery information, visit [www.FEMA.gov/IrmaFL](http://www.FEMA.gov/IrmaFL), or follow us [@FEMARegion4 on Twitter](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion4) and on [FEMA's Facebook page](#).

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*FEMA's mission: Helping people before, during and after disasters.*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.*

*FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.*

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